

What is claimed is:

1. Process for cutting a cylindrical or prismatic body having a non-circular cross-section which comprises applying torsional cutting force to said body.

2. The process claimed in claim 1 wherein the body is an orthopaedic plate.

3. The process claimed in claim 1 wherein the body has grooves in its surface and a cutting tool is inserted into a groove to develop the torsional cutting force.

4. Process for cutting a body having a non-circular cross-section which comprises fixing a first sharp cutting element on a surface of the body, fixing a second sharp cutting element on said surface in direct contact with the first cutting element and rotating said elements in opposite direction relative to one another whereby the body is severed by a torsional cutting process.

5. The process claimed in claim 3 wherein the body has a longitudinal axis and the cutting elements are rotated about said axis.

Subail 6. A tool for cutting a body having a non-circular cross-section comprising an upper shearing element and a lower shearing element, each of said shearing elements having cutting edges, said edges directly touching one another and said tool further comprising means for rotating said elements counter to one another.

7. The tool claimed in claim 6 wherein the shearing elements each comprises a disc having a slot with a cutting edge

8. The tool claimed in claim 6 wherein each shearing element comprises a forceps having jaws with cutting edges.

10. A tool for cutting a body having a non-circular cross-section comprising a first holder having a front face, a second holder having a front face, clamping means having cutting edges in the front face of each of said holders, said holders being positionable with their front faces in contact, and hand grips on said holders whereby said holders can be rotated in opposite directions to cut a body in said clamping means.

11. A body having a non-circular cross-section manufactured by the process of claim 1.

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